

Date Mailed June 29, 1999

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, Inc., for
Authority to Modify and Extend Its Alternative Regulation Plan

4260-TI-101

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO consider whether it is in the public interest to modify and extend an alternative regulation plan for CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, Inc. (CTMWW), and if so, what provisions should be included in such a plan. CTMWW provides telecommunications service to approximately 129,000 access lines in various exchanges spread throughout the state. On June 20, 1996, the Commission issued an order in docket 4260-TI-100, approving an alternative regulation plan, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12), for CTMWW's predecessor, North-West Telephone Company (North-West). On January 27, 1997, and September 30, 1998, the Commission approved amendments to North-West's (CTMWW's) Plan.

On December 1, 1997, Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc., took ownership of North-West by acquiring its parent company, Pacific Telecom, Inc. On May 8, 1998, North-West's name was changed to CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, Inc.

On March 15, 1999, CTMWW filed an application to modify and extend its existing alternative regulation plan (Plan). Among the changes CTMWW proposes are modifications to the criteria used to determine the amount rates are allowed to increase or must be decreased, a change in maximum rate which may be charged, elimination of any earnings management provision, and waiver of additional statutory sections. If approved, the proposed Plan would cover a 5-year period, and include a provision that the applicant be allowed to adjust rates within specified limits based on rate rebalancing and attainment of specified objectives. The Plan also includes implementation of procedures to promote competition in the applicant's service territory. Details of these and other proposals are contained in the applicant's filing. Copies of the applicant's filings may be obtained by written request to Timothy Steffes, CenturyTel, P.O. Box 349, Tomah, Wisconsin 54660-0349, or by e-mail addressed to *tim.steffes@centurytel.com*.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an

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investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5. The Commission intends to process this case without a hearing, unless one is requested and granted.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Christopher Larson at (608) 267-9508.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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